

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Impress USA Inc

California Manufacturing Technology Consulting

Impress USA, Inc. Realizes Annual Cost Savings with Assistance from CMTC

Client Profile:

Impress USA, Inc. was formed in 2000 following the acquisition of the StarKist can manufacturing assets from H. J. Heinz Co. Ltd. The U.S. division headquarters is in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The Terminal Island, California plant is one of six manufacturing plants in the U.S. division. Impress USA, Inc. supplies a wide range of two and three piece cans and ends mainly to the pet food and seafood market processors. Their major customers include Bumble Bee, Star Kist and Chicken of the Sea. The company has approximately 175 employees at this location.

Situation:

Since being acquired in 2000, Impress's Terminal Island location was faced with competitive pressures from other U.S. plant locations as well as foreign competition. They had to reduce operating costs, reduce scrap and increase margins or face relocation or shut down. In May 2005, Impress USA contacted California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist them with the development of a 5S Lean manufacturing training program which focused on creating effective work place organization and standard work procedures so their employees would have practical working knowledge of these principles and techniques. The goals of this program were to train the employees so they could work in cross functional teams as well as provide a working knowledge and understanding of "value added" versus "non-value added" activities and processes.

Solution:

From September 2005 through April 2006, the Impress USA management team and CMTC consultants conducted hands on training for six different groups. The individual cross functional teams worked on various departments and processes within the plant, learning and applying 5S Lean Manufacturing principles and techniques. Many employees had never worked on cross functional teams and found the experience informative and rewarding.

Projects conducted by the six teams resulted in better utilization of floor space, increased employee safety, reduction in scrap materials, organized and clean work areas and standardized work instruction for processes. The plant also experienced an increase in productivity and lower finished goods inventories. These improvements elevated the plant from being one of the lower performing plants within Impress USA, Inc. to number two in the system.

Results:

- * Realized \$200,000 in cost savings.
- * Increased productivity.
- * Reduced inventory of finished goods.
- * Reduced scrap material.

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- * Improved utilization of floor space.
- * Increased employee safety.

Testimonial:

"The quality of the 5S Lean Manufacturing training received from California Manufacturing Technology Consulting helped us become one of the best plants. As we continue to implement more Lean programs at Impress USA, we will use CMTC to assist."

Michael Borne, Director, Western Operations